



March 10, 2011

Co-Chair John Fonfara
Co-Chair Vickie Nardello
Senator Kevin Witkos
Representative Laura Hoydick

Energy Committee:

We are submitting testimony in support of H.B. 6542, AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ENERGY EFFICIENT ECONOMY.

The Independent Connecticut Petroleum Association (ICPA) represents 576 petroleum marketers and their associated business in Connecticut. ICPA members employ over 13,000 people in our state and provide 682,000 Connecticut residences with 500 million gallons of heating oil each year.

ICPA operates a private occupational school (ITEC) in Cromwell that is certified by the state Department of Higher Education. We currently prepare students to become Heating Ventilation Air Conditioning (HVAC) technicians, get their solar thermal certification, and become Building Performance Institute (BPI) home energy auditors, among many other programs. BPI training is the newest offering at our school and in our first two year we have trained 93 people to become home energy auditors.

While we support H.B. 6542 we have some suggestions that we believe will strengthen the purpose of the bill and make it stronger.

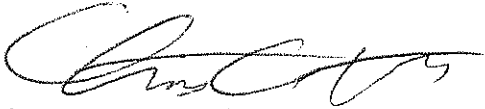
- E-auditor criteria, and E-contractor criteria - definitions of both are left to the DEEP to create and promulgate by rule. We do not believe that there is a need to allow such authority, as the legislation should stipulate that under both definitions both need to meet the requirements of the current BPI/HES standards that are already in place. This is important, as every state and federal program that gets involved in this work requires contractors to meet this BPI/HES standard;
- The funds developed from the bonds issued in section 2 should in part be directed to the Connecticut Fuel Oil Conservation Fund that already has a proven track record of reducing energy costs by \$3 for every \$1 spent on increased energy conservation measures. The current imperative for the Fund is among recipients of low income energy assistance so increasing energy efficiency in dwellings of those recipients reduces the need for as

much LIHEAP funding by as much as 50% per dwelling. This would maximize the intent of this legislation;

- Currently, certified BPI auditors are prohibited from participating in the Home Energy Solutions (HES) program. Even though they have completed all of their class room training, field work, and passed their exam HES arbitrarily restricts access to the program. We believe that this bill should contain language that allows properly trained and certified BPI auditors to participate in the HES program and the program outlined in this bill.

ICPA urges the committee to support H.B. 6542, AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ENERGY EFFICIENT ECONOMY with our suggested changes.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christian A. Herb', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Christian A. Herb
Vice President